(c) Elementary education is free in all Government and Government aided schools. In most States secondary education is free for girls in all Government and Government aided schools.

(d) There has been a suggestion to this effect.

Drought/Famine in the country

*148. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the toll of human life caused by drought and famine in different States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura etc. during this year, including those caused by malnutrition and epidemics; and

(b) the central aid given to different States hit by drought and famine?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No toll of human life caused by starvation on account of drought and famine in the States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura, etc. has been reported by the State Governments. No reliable and complete data concerning deaths on account of malnutrition or epidemics in different States are available with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi, who recently carried out a survey have reported 71 deaths in Tripura due to diarrhoeal diseases.

(b) The State Governments who submitted memoranda seeking central assistance for undertaking drought relief measures in the current year have been released the following amounts of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund during 1992-93:—

	State	Amount (Rs in crores);
1.	Gujarat	63.750
2.	Karnataka	10 125
3.	Kerala	17.438
4.	Madhya Pradesh	20.813
5.	Maharashtra	33.000
6.	Manipur.	0.375
7.	Rajasthan	46.500

Plan for National Capital Region

*149. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which the plan for National Capital Region could not take off; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) National Capital Region Planning Board was constituted in 1985 for harmonised and balanced development of the National Capital Region, Regional Plan-2001 for the National Capital Region has been notified for implementation on 23-1-1989. There has been gradual development of NCR according to the approved Regional Plan could not be undertaken on account of inadequate budgetary provision for infrastructure provision and land development, as well as difficulties in decentralising various activities from Delhi.

(b) As part of VIII Plan strategy for urban development the Government has envisaged the following measures for the accelerated and balanced development of the NCR in concert with concerned Central Ministries and State Goverments:

(i) Large scale employment generation in priority towns.

(ii) Development of regional infrastructure, transport and telecommunications.

(iii) Development of land and city level infrastructure in priority towns and countermagnets.

(iv) Development of express highways and transmission distribution of power.

(v) Increased plan provision in the central sector, with larger reliance on institutional finance and private sector involvement.

(vi) Amendments to the NCR Act, and institutional strengthening for more effective implementation of the regional and sub-regional plans.

(vii) Vigorous steps for decentralisation of activities from Delhi and to ensure uniform taxes and tariffs over Delhi and rest of the region.

Amendment of the Waqf Act

*150. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Waqf Act to streamline its working; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed amendment?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Wakf (Amendment) Act 1984 could not be enforced due to objections raised by various quarters of muslim community opinion. The main objections to the Amendment Act are as follows:—

(i) The Wakf Commissioner has been given over-riding powers. He should be subordinate to the Wakf Board.

(ii) The Wakf Boards and the Central Wakf Council should be fully autonomous bodies with the least State Control. The Wakf Board should be either totally or largely elected bodies.

(iii) Objection was also taken to certain specific provisions relating to 'secular' activities of wakfs, wakf alal-aulad, wakf properties donated by non-muslims, muafis, Khairati net annual income etc.

The proposed amendments to Wakf Law aim at meeting these objections on the basis of a general consensus

साक्षरता के प्रसार के लिए स्वैच्छिक संगठनों को अनुदान

*151. श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग :
श्री रणजीत सिंह :

क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान साक्षरता का प्रसार करने के लिए अनेक स्वैच्छिक संगठनों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की गयी थी,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त अवधि के दौरान कितनी संस्थाओं को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की गयी और उनमें से प्रत्येक को कितनी धनराशि दी गयी,

(ग) क्या सरकार द्वारा उनके लेखाओं की जांच की गई है,

(घ) यदि हां, तो कितनी संस्थाओं का हिसाब तथा कार्य प्रणाली संतोषप्रद पाई गई है,

(ङ) क्या सरकार ने भविष्य में उन संस्थाओं को वित्तीय सहायता न देने का निर्णय किया है, जिनकी कार्य प्रणाली संतोषप्रद नहीं है, और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है ?